

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for addressing a message sent by a sender to a mobile device that does not have a valid telephone number, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a. receiving a prefixed MIN address that includes a two-part prefix attached to a non unique, intra-network mobile identification number, said prefixed MIN uniquely defining the mobile device; and
  - b. routing the message to the mobile device using said prefixed MIN address.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said two-part prefix includes as a first part a MIN identifier and as a second part a network identifier.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein each of said MIN identifier and said network identifier has three digits.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of routing includes searching a database for a destination network identified by said network identifier, and removing said prefix from said prefixed MIN address, thereby leaving a recipient address comprising only said MIN.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein, if said destination network is found, said step of routing further includes sending said message to said MIN on said destination network.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein, if said destination network is not found, said step of routing further includes generating an error message sent back to the sender.
7. A method for routing a message having a recipient address to a mobile device that does not have a valid telephone number, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a. checking the recipient address; and
  - b. based on said checking, uniquely identifying said recipient address with the mobile device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said recipient address includes a two-part prefix comprising a mobile identification number (MIN) identifier and a network identifier, said recipient address further including a MIN.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein said identifying further includes identifying a destination network from said network identifier.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising removing said two-part prefix and sending said message to the mobile device identified by said MIN on said destination network.
11. A system for routing SMS messages to mobile devices that do not have valid telephone numbers comprising:
  - a. a receive message function operative to receive a message having a recipient address that includes a prefix attached to a second section of a number;
  - b. a routing message function operative to identify the mobile device based on said recipient address, said routing function further operative to remove said prefix; and
  - c. a send message function for sending said message to the mobile device.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein said prefix includes a MIN identifier that indicates that said second section is a MIN, said prefix further including a network identifier identifying the destination network of the mobile device.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein said MIN identifier and said network identifier include each three digits.
14. The system of claim 12, wherein said network identifier is included in a network identifiers database, said routing message function communicating with said network identifiers database in said operation to identify said destination network.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein said prefix is stripped by said routing function, leaving said MIN, and wherein said send message function is used to send the message to said MIN on said destination network.

16. A system for routing SMS messages to mobile devices comprising;

- a. a receive message function operative to receive a message having a recipient address;
- b. a routing message function operative to decide, based on said recipient address, if said recipient address has a valid or non-valid telephone number; and
- c. means to send said message to said recipient address.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein said recipient address is a valid telephone number, and wherein said means include means to route valid telephone numbers.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein said recipient address is a number comprising a prefix + second section, said prefix indicating that said recipient address is a non-valid telephone number.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein said prefix includes as a first part a mobile identification number (MIN) identifier that identifies said second section as a MIN, and as a second part a network identifier that identifies a destination network associated with said MIN, said network identifier stored in a network identifiers database.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein said routing function is further operative to remove said prefix and leave said second section as an address identifying the mobile device.